

# The Carl B. Kern Fund of The Dayton Foundation

*established 1987*

February 6, 2022



The Dayton  
Foundation  
*We help you help others.*

# Honoring Carl B. Kern

- The Kern family was one of the four founding families of Germantown, Ohio – originally natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania – who permanently settled in the area in 1804.
- Carl B. Kern graduated from Germantown High School in 1898. He served as a tool maker apprentice in Dayton before traveling to Cleveland to become the Assistant Secretary for the West Side Y.M.C.A under M.D. Crackel. He then attended the Y.M.C.A. College in Springfield, MA, graduating in 1907.
- Carl B. Kern was recruited by the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Y.M.C.A. to lead its Boys' Dept. His impact on youth became clear. After he announced in 1909 that he would be accepting the job of Boys' Work Secretary for the Dayton Y.M.C.A. starting in September, a send-off reception included touching testimonials and a "loving cup" as a memento of affection.
- An extensive biographical history of Carl B. Kern - including links to newspaper articles and the YMCA archives - has been compiled on the Fund's website ([www.kernfund.org](http://www.kernfund.org)), from his birth in 1880 to his tragic accidental death in June, 1917.

# The Impact of Camp Ozone

In a September 20, 1915 report of the Boys' Work Secretary to the Dayton Y.M.C.A. Board of Trustees, C.B. Kern wrote, "The spirit demonstrated throughout the camp will mean much for the entire work and without doubt will prove lasting... This speaks much for the splendid location and the permanent equipment already developed. **More of permanent value can be accomplished with a week in camp with a boy than months of casual contact.**"

Report of the Boys' Work Secretary  
to  
the Board of Trustees, Sept. 20, 1915

The work of the summer has been interesting as usual and gratifying in more ways than one. The summer being a rainy one made the building more than ever necessary.

698 Members September 1. 822 books were issued during July and August. 1010 boys attended the various bible classes during the two months. Baths and Gym attendance averaged over 1500 each month. Membership earnings to September 1, \$571.70 - \$130.00 ahead of last year. 144 boys attended camp.

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We were successful in securing Mr. S. C. Britton as Boys' Physical Director who began his work September 1.

Our Department Annual has been prepared and will be out next week. The work is opening up splendidly and from all indications this year ought to break all records.

Respectfully submitted,



Boys' Work Secretary.

## The Accident – June 3, 1917

“An automobile truck, which Mr. Kern was driving, was struck by the 11 o'clock north bound [Dayton and Troy traction] car on the Troy pike just north of the city. Mr. Kern was thrown beneath the wheels of the car and suffered injuries which caused his death in Miami Valley hospital at 3:30 Sunday afternoon.” - *The Dayton Herald*, 4 Jun 1917, page 3.



## The Tributes

**June 4th - Editorial - "A Friend of the Boys"** - "Carl B. Kern sought no greater honor than to be accounted worthy the friendship of the hundreds of young fellows who were under his personal care and attention in the boys' department of the Y.M.C.A.... Camp Ozone, at Ft. Ancient, where hundreds of these full-of-life young chaps were accustomed to spend their vacation days, will stand as a permanent memorial to the aggressive activities of Mr. Kern.... And so today the boys of the Y.M.C.A. are grieving because one of their number has gone away. It will be a rather difficult task to fill the vacancy that Carl Kern's death has created. His loss is a personal one in hundreds of Dayton homes." - *Dayton Daily News*, 4 Jun 1917, page 6.



## Tribute Booklet Printed in 1918

“It is quite impossible in a small space – or even a large one – to do justice to a great character.... The life of Carl B. Kern will never be adequately written, yet it is very real. It was ‘caught’ by the boys whom he touched and goes on reinflecting those whom they touch. The power of his example, the results of his efforts are as the bit of yeast that is saved after each baking to leaven all the succeeding loaves.

However, it was thought fitting to publish a few dates and facts and especially some pictures so that his friends would have some material keep-sake of him.”

(full booklet on web site)

### **BOOKLET HONORS LATE C. B. KERN**

In honor of the late C. B. Kern, boys' work director of the Y. M. C. A., who lost his life in an automobile accident last June, boys of the department have issued a little booklet. It will be distributed among all the boys in the department.

The booklet contains a photograph of “C. B.,” who was “a friend of every kid in town,” together with pictures of Camp Kern at Fort Ancient, which the secretary founded. Mrs. C. B. Kern helped to prepare the booklet.

## And So the Tradition Continues...

- In September of 1917, the Dayton Y.M.C.A. board of directors votes to rename Camp Ozone to Camp Kern to honor Carl B. Kern.
- Seventy years later, in November of 1987, The Carl B. Kern Fund is established with The Dayton Foundation to honor Carl B. Kern and provide financial support to continue his work in perpetuity.



# Background – The Dayton Foundation

- The Dayton Foundation is a non-profit tax-exempt community foundation, established in 1921 with an initial \$250,000 donation by the Patterson family (John H. Patterson, Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell, and Robert Patterson).
- As of June 30, 2020, the Foundation administered nearly **4,000** Funds, had \$652.7 million in assets, and totaled \$66 million in grants and charitable distributions for the 2019-20 fiscal year.
- The Dayton Foundation is **second** among all community foundations nationwide in the number of charitable funds under management and the number of grants awarded - **more** than community foundations in **New York City, Los Angeles** and **Chicago**.
- **FUN FACT #1 – Don Battelle** served as the Foundation's first director from 1930 through 1973. He also attended Camp Ozone in 1912 and later became an assistant to Carl B. Kern after graduating from Steele High School in 1914.
- **FUN FACT #2 –** In 1943, the Foundation provided \$400 to help finance camping for underprivileged boys at Camp Kern, as announced by Dayton YMCA Boys' Work Secretary **William Young**.



# Background – Excerpts from The Fund Agreement

- In November, 1987, **Stuart T. Weinberg, MD** worked with Foundation President **Fred Bartenstein** to establish The Carl B. Kern Fund (one of **124** funds at the time) with an initial gift of \$1,000 and the support of C.B. Kern nephew **George E. Kuhn** and niece **Mary Kuhn Sigel**.
- “The Fund was established in honor of Carl B. Kern, for the exclusive purpose of furthering his ideals and areas of interest, primarily camping, other youth activities, and the outdoors.”
- “In order to carry out the purpose enumerated above, net income of the Fund shall be distributed not less often than annually to the organization responsible for the management of Camp Kern to be used solely for supporting camper scholarships and defraying the operational and capital expenses of Camp Kern.”
- The Fund is overseen by an Advisory Board, “who shall each have demonstrated a commitment to pursue the interests and ideals of Carl B. Kern.”

# Current Kern Fund Advisory Board Members

- **Stuart T. Weinberg, MD** (1988-) - *Chair, Founding Board Member*

Kern Camper '68-'74; Staff '75-'78, '80-'82, '84; Board '85-'89

- **Sarah E. Kuhn** (2021-) - *Kern Relative (great-great-niece)*

- **Thomas M. Kuhn** (2017-) - *Kern Relative (great nephew)*

- **William C. Pees** (1988, 1999-)

Kern Board '84-'95; Kern Board Chair '88-'89

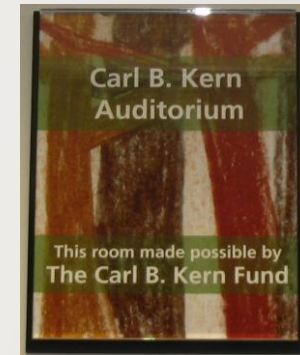
## The Carl B. Kern Fund – Results, as of February 6, 2022

- When established with a **\$1,000** gift, the Initial Donor specified in the Fund Agreement, “It is my hope and expectation that other individuals, corporations and organizations will seek to further this purpose by adding to the Fund.”
- Over **\$500,000** has been raised from **1,078** donations and bequests.
- There have been 4 estate gifts, from **George E. Kuhn, Roz Young, Mary Kuhn Sigel, and Robert Salisbury.**
- Just under **\$217,000** has been distributed to YMCA Camp Kern on behalf of the Fund, most recently **\$20,000** in 2021. Anticipated amount for 2022 is **\$21,000.**
- The balance of the Fund as of December 31st, 2021 was **\$580,099.37.**
- Complete financial details are available on the website: [www.kernfund.org](http://www.kernfund.org)

# The Carl B. Kern Fund – Use of Distributions

Since the first distribution check of \$201 was presented to then Executive Director **Larry Maxwell** at camp's Strawberries and Ice Cream event in June, 1989, funds have been used to support many efforts, among them:

- Camper scholarships (camperships) requests – **\$84,500**
- The Harry Schiewetz Assembly Hall - Carl B. Kern Auditorium - **\$50,000**
- The Charles Snyder Recreation Hall - **\$25,000**
- The Camp Kern Centennial Campaign - **\$15,000**
- The Camp Kern Lodge Renovation Campaign - **\$14,500**
- The Dayton YMCA Capital Campaign - **\$10,000**
- The Circle K Ranch Improvement project including “Sponsor a Stall” - **\$10,000**
- Partial funding for directional signage and the Climbing Tower - **\$6,000**
- Kern camper/staff participation in World Camp 1994 and 1998 – **\$2,000**





## And Then There Was The Pandemic...

The continuity of financial support from the Fund has been particularly appreciated during the pandemic.

From YMCA Camp Kern Executive Director Chris Addison on 4/17/2020:

*“Thank you so much for the foresight and the gift. These special circumstances have created a different kind of need at camp, and this donation will help us fill those needs. You have all done an absolutely tremendous job with the Fund and should be so proud of the benefits it has brought to camp and our campers over the years. We are obviously facing some challenging times ahead, but gifts like these will make a big difference.”*

# Honorary and Memorial Gifts – 2021 Examples

- In honor of **Lynn Arnold Sparks, Tami Opferkuch Kesling, Barb Newill Klatt, and Leigh Randolph Pickenpaugh** - "These then-young women helped me grow more confident. I treasure my memories of the Triple K Ranch." - *Emily Landis Dennis*
- In honor of **Mike Sherman** - "Mike taught us how to tell stories, and I have now been telling stories for camps, churches, schools, and many other venues for almost 45 years." - *Nancy Myers Winniford*
- In honor of **Zach and Nick Siegert** - "Our sons have been campers/counselors for close to twenty years and Camp Kern has been a life-changing experience for them." - *Gerry and Stacy Siegert*
- In memory of **Tami Greenfield Boehmer** - "Tami loved her days at Camp Kern and often commented how it changed her life. She especially liked serving as a camp counselor. Camp Kern made a dramatic impact on her life." - *Mike Boehmer*
- In memory of **J. Martin 'Marty' Erbaugh** - "Camp Kern meant so much to Marty. It helped shape him as an adult, spouse and father. He told many Camp Kern stories to me and his three beautiful daughters. I know it would mean a lot to Marty to give back to a camp that gave him so much in his formative years." - *Lynne Erbaugh*
- In memory of **Rick E. Molfenter** - "As always - Rick always looked forward to going to Camp Kern!" - *Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Molfenter*
- In memory of **Amy Turley** - "We lost Amy last year. I met her at Ranch Camp. She loved Camp Kern." - *Susan Chandler*
- In memory of **Walter G. and Earl E. Sterzer** - "Whose experience at the Old Camp in the 1930's was invaluable." - *Michael J. Sterzer*

# Appreciation! – And Looking Towards the Future

- The Advisory Board is so grateful for the hundreds of individuals who have donated to the Fund to date. This has included former Camp Kern Executive Directors and year-round professional staff, Dayton YMCA leaders, Camp Kern Board Chairs and Board Members, former campers and seasonal (summer/Outdoor Ed) staff, and other friends of Camp Kern.
- The Advisory Board is always looking for passionate individuals with “Kern Blood” to help lead and promote The Carl B. Kern Fund for many years to come.
- Financially, it would be great to see a Fund balance of **\$1 million** in the near future(!)
- Comprehensive information about the Fund is available and updated frequently on the web at [www.kernfund.org](http://www.kernfund.org), including the latest Annual Report: <http://www.kernfund.org/2022-02.pdf>
- There is also a Carl B. Kern Fund Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cbkernfund/>
- **THANK YOU!!!** Please feel free to contact Kern Fund Advisory Board Chair Stuart Weinberg at [stwmd@stwmd.net](mailto:stwmd@stwmd.net) with any questions or comments.